

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior listings of claims in the subject patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (currently amended). ~~A self-cooling container for water and water-based beverages,~~ A portable container for potable water or water-based beverage. wherein the wall of said container comprises a non-porous membrane made of a polymeric material comprising hydrophilic units and having the ability to transmit water vapor by a solution/diffusion mechanism, whereby water vaporization inside said container produces a cooling effect capable of maintaining the temperature of said beverage below ambient when relative humidity is below 100%.

2 (previously presented). The container of claim 1 wherein said hydrophilic units of said membrane comprise aliphatic ether or ester groups.

3 (previously presented). The container of claim 1 wherein said membrane comprises a thermoplastic elastomer selected from the group consisting of polyether-amides, polyester-amides, polyether-urethanes, polyester-urethanes, polyether-esters and copolyesters.

4 (previously presented). The container of claim 1 wherein a porous fabric is laminated to the outer surface or to both inner and outer surface of said membrane.